

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2301

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July 8, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write to urge strong consideration for the U.S. Highway 14 Four-Lane Expansion Project application. I represent the project area and can personally attest to the necessity of this project.

Your approval of the BUILD funding application for this critical piece of infrastructure will make a huge difference for residents in and around New Ulm, Minnesota.

The Highway 14 Corridor project has been promised for almost 50 years. Members of Congress, from former Rep. Ancher Nelsen (R-MN-02, first elected in 1958) to my predecessor, Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN-01, first elected in 2006), who now serves as Governor of Minnesota, have advocated for this project. The time to complete the last 12-mile stretch is now.

- This section is a major conduit for agriculture and freight. Heavy commercial volumes range from 12-17 percent of all traffic as compared to the approximately 8 percent of heavy commercial traffic on other Minnesota state highways.
- The high volume of commercial traffic makes this section one of the most deadly stretches of highway in Minnesota including a recent fatality in 2018.
- New Ulm is the largest city in Minnesota without direct access to a 4-lane highway
- I have met personally with city/county officials and business leaders and discussed how the locality has endured lost business expansion and relocation opportunities due to inadequate transportation infrastructure.

The purpose of the BUILD program is to improve access to reliable and safe transportation in rural areas. Residents, businesses, farmers, manufacturers, truckers and government officials have tirelessly promoted this project to provide safe and reliable infrastructure to our region.

Today, in bipartisan fashion, I join with Governor Walz, numerous state legislators, local

officials and my First District constituents to strongly encourage you to grant approval to this long-overdue project under the BUILD program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Hagedorn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress

CC: Tim Walz, Governor, State of Minnesota
Doris Degenstein, Minnesota Department of Transportation